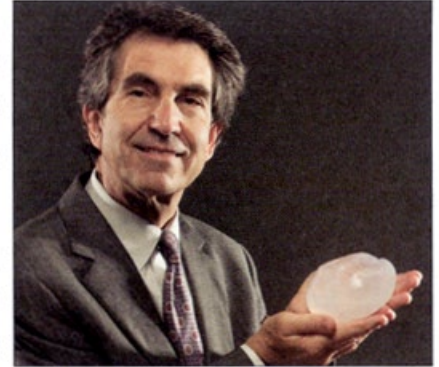


## PLASTIC SURGEON SEEKS TO BUILD A BETTER IMPLANT

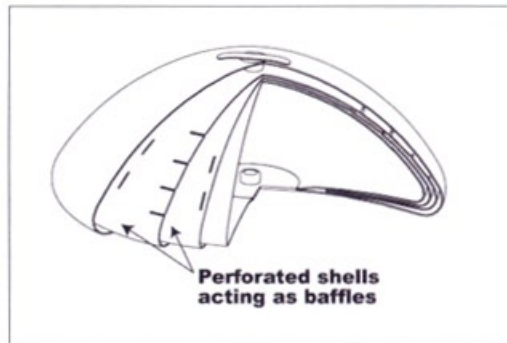
Robert Hamas, MD, Dallas, is confident enough in his "Ideal Implant" that he classifies it as "the best of all breast implant worlds," with the shape and feel of silicone gel implants, but filled with saline for those patients who prefer it.

The Ideal Implant's construction is based on a series of baffles, the type of which are used to keep waterbeds fairly stable in comparison to early versions that would produce wave-like effects inside the mattress when pushed or sat upon.



*Robert Hamas, MD, Dallas, holds his 'Ideal Implant'*

"Some women are concerned about silent rupture with silicone gel implants; the Ideal Implant can provide peace of mind for that because it uses saline only," Dr. Hamas says. "In addition, baffles inside control the movement of the saline, which is one way to keep the edges smooth and wrinkle-free. The design goal is to keep the implant from jiggling and bouncing, therefore acting similar to healthy breast tissue. Early reports on that are encouraging."



*Cut-away illustration of the implant*

The implant also introduces edges that sit more closely to a patient's rib cage than current saline implants – which is key to a good appearance, he notes. "Today's implants edges that stand higher from the ribs, and when the soft tissues pull the edges down toward the ribs, the wrinkling occurs. The objective is to keep the edges of our implant near the ribs," he says.

More than 100 of his target goal of 500 patients have been enrolled in the clinical trial, which began in February and is under way at 36 sites, Dr. Hamas says.

The Ideal Implant shares with many other inventions the often-accidental nature of evolution. Dr. Hamas came up with the idea on a plane flight that ran into turbulence: His wife's drink had no ice cubes and splashed about – and his, which held ice cubes, stayed entirely within the cup. "I started thinking about an implant with something like ice inside to keep it from sloshing around, eventually deciding on the baffles," Dr. Hamas says.

Numerous ASPS members have worked hard on the Ideal Implant, both with its design and through investing. "I owe a debt of gratitude to these physicians," he says. [PSN](#)